

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). A method comprising:

obtaining, on a first wireless device, a contact list of second wireless devices with which the first wireless device has communicated in the past, a list of known contacts on a wireless device, including a first contact in-range from the first wireless device and a second contact being out-of-range from the first wireless device;

automatically establishing a communication route between the first wireless device and the ~~from the device to a~~ first contact; and

automatically establishing a communication route from the first wireless device to a second contact through the first contact.

2 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining the contact list ~~a list of known contacts~~ includes acquiring information from a list of addressees on a the first wireless device.

3 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1 including automatically exchanging lists of contacts with in-range second wireless devices, comparing the lists of contacts, and identifying common contacts in said lists.

4 (Original). The method of claim 3 including exchanging lists of common contacts between two devices with other in-range devices.

5 (Original). The method of claim 1 including storing information sufficient to establish a communication route from said device to said second contact.

6 (Original). The method of claim 1 including storing information related to said first contact.

7 (Original). The method of claim 6 including storing information about whether said second contact is active.

8 (Original). The method of claim 7 including sharing information with other in-range devices about whether said first contact is active.

9 (Original). The method of claim 1 including periodically updating information about in-range devices.

10 (Original). The method of claim 1 including storing an alternative communication route to said second contact.

11 (Currently Amended). An article comprising a computer readable medium storing instructions that, if executed, enable ~~enables~~ a processor-based first wireless device ~~system~~ to:

obtain a contact list of wireless devices which the first wireless device has communicated in the past, list of known contacts on a wireless device, including a first contact in-range from the first wireless device and a second contact being out-of-range from the first wireless device;

automatically establish a communication route from the first wireless device to a first contact; and

automatically establish a communication route from the first wireless device to a second contact through the first contact.

12 (Currently Amended). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device ~~processor-based system~~ to acquire information from a list of addressees on a device.

13 (Currently Amended). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device ~~processor-based system~~ to automatically exchange lists of contacts with in-range devices, compare the lists of contacts, and identify common contacts in said lists.

14 (Currently Amended). The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device ~~processor-based system~~ to exchange lists of common contacts between two devices with other in-range devices.

15 (Currently Amended). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device ~~processor-based system~~ to store information sufficient to establish a communication route from said device to said second contact.

16 (Currently Amended). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device ~~processor-based system~~ to store information related to said first contact.

17 (Currently Amended). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device ~~processor-based system~~ to store information about whether said second contact is active.

18 (Currently Amended). The article of claim 17 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device ~~processor-based system~~ to share information with other in-range devices about whether said first contact is active.

19 (Currently Amended). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device ~~processor-based system~~ to periodically update information about in-range devices.

20 (Currently Amended). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device ~~processor-based system~~ to store an alternative communication route to said second contact.

21 (Currently Amended). A system comprising:
a processor;
a storage coupled to said processor storing instructions that enable the processor
to:
obtain a contact list of ~~known~~ contacts that the system has communicated
with before, on a wireless device, including a first contact in-range from the device and a second
contact being out-of-range from the device;
automatically establish a communication route from the device to a first
contact; and
automatically establish a communication route from the device to a second
contact through the first contact.

22 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable
the processor to acquire information from a list of addressees on a device.

23 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable
the processor to automatically exchange of lists of contacts with in-range devices, compare the
lists of contacts, and identify common contacts in said lists.

24 (Original). The system of claim 23 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable
the processor to exchange lists of common contacts between two devices with other in-range
devices.

25 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable
the processor to store information sufficient to establish a communication route from said device
to said second contact.

26 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable
the processor to store information related to said first contact.

27 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to store information about whether said second contact is active.

28 (Original). The system of claim 27 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to share information with other in-range devices about whether said first contact is active.

29 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to periodically update information about in-range devices.

30 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to store an alternative communication route to said second contact.